

Farley Blacksmith Shop  
82 Memorial Parkway  
New Brunswick  
Middlesex County  
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-715

HABS  
NJ  
12-NEBRU  
10-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## FARLEY BLACKSMITH SHOP

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Street Address: 82 Memorial Parkway, New Brunswick, Middlesex  
County, New Jersey

Present Owners  
and Occupants: William, Harry, and John Farley

Present Use: Blacksmith shop

Brief Statement  
of Significance: This is an early nineteenth century blacksmith  
shop, complete with original tools, still in use.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original and subsequent owners: The original owner and founder of the blacksmith shop was Cornelius Farley. The shop was subsequently owned and run by his son, Patrick Farley, the father of the present owners.
- B. Date of erection: Early nineteenth century.
- C. Reference: Doris Brown, "Historic Farley Brothers' Blacksmith Shop Seems Doomed as Victim of City's Progress," The Sunday Home News, New Brunswick, New Jersey, December 6, 1959, page 3.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement:
  - 1. Architectural character: This is a small, simple, wooden blacksmith shop from the early nineteenth century.
  - 2. Condition of fabric: The building is in fair condition. It is still in use and has had various repairs and maintenance.
- B. Detailed Description of Exterior:
  - 1. General layout: The shop consists of two small, rectangular, frame sections--a one-story smithy and an adjoining one-and-a-half story appurtenance building.
  - 2. Foundations: Brick.
  - 3. Wall construction: Frame construction with various types of wood sheathing: vertical boards, vertical board and batten, beaded horizontal sheathing, and clapboards.

4. Chimneys: Brick chimneys for the two open forges.
  5. Openings:
    - a. Doors: Two wide, two-leaf, board doors on strap hinges; one from the smithy to the street and one from the appurtenance building to the yard. Four-panel rear door.
    - b. Windows: Six-light over six-light, double-hung wood windows in the appurtenance building; twelve-light fixed sash in smithy; six-light fixed sash in the attic of the appurtenance building; two skylights in smithy; one skylight in appurtenance building.
  6. Roof: Gable roofs with rolled roofing.
- C. Technical Description of Interiors:
1. Floor plans: Each of the two adjoining sections of the building is a single room. The two sections are connected by a narrow doorway.
  2. Flooring: Wood plank flooring.
  3. Wall and ceiling finish: Exposed frame construction.
  4. Lighting: Electric.
- D. Site:
1. Enclosures: The blacksmith shop forms one side of a large yard that is enclosed by a tall picket fence.
  2. Driveways: The driveways in the enclosed yard are paved with Belgian blocks.
  3. Landscaping: There are a few trees in the enclosed yard, but most of the space is used for storing firewood and miscellaneous items connected with the shop.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect  
National Park Service  
February 1961

## FARLEY BLACKSMITH SHOP

An Addendum

Present Location: Johnson Park, Piscataway Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey. Moved 1961 from 82 Memorial Parkway, New Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey

Present Use: Museum

The following is quoted from The New York Times, New York City, New York, for Sunday, November 12, 1961:

"1851 SMITHY SAVED  
AS JERSEY MUSEUM

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"Special to The New York Times.

"NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J., Nov. 11---Most youngsters and not a few of their parents know blacksmith shops only from poetry and western films.

"And that was the prime reason for the dedication earlier this week of an 1851 smithy at Johnson Park in near-by Piscataway Township.

"In 1851, Cornelius Farley opened his shop near the Raritan River on Burnet Street, which was then New Brunswick's commercial district.

"Earlier this year, the founder's grandsons, John V. William and Harry S. Farley, sold their property as part of the site of a multi-story apartment building.

"It appeared that the old shop would be demolished. But a group of area residents raised \$3,000. Together with various groups they made plans to move the building to Johnson Park, operated by the Middlesex County Park Department.

"Today the shop stands ready for use as a working museum. All equipment is in running order. As a final touch the cobblestones that were in front of the smithy were moved to the shop.

"The museum will be open to the public on request to the Park Department."

Prepared by Dorothy E. Green  
Editorial Clerk  
National Park Service  
February 1962